

(From clockwise): Spencer Goh, Dr Low Wyemun, Nathan "Floods" Winterfloods, Belinda Foo and Dr Tan Su Ming

## ENCORE, DOC! Dr Tan Su Ming

*Dr Tan Su-Ming, or "Su", to her family and friends, is a GP. She graduated from Medical school NUS in 1990, but always felt herself to be an English major at heart. A hopeless sap who even cried while watching Kungfu Panda, she is a fond and affectionate wife and mommy of a 7-year-old. She says that she is a shy and ordinary gal, but paradoxically, loves singing in public to a captive audience, with a band. She fulfilled a major item on her bucket list this February when she put out a CD with 5 songs, carrying the title (and her personal motto) "You Live Once".*



1. When I was a child... I wanted to be a grown-up ☺
2. The most influential persons in my early life were... my parents.
3. My musical journey began... sometime in junior college. I remember telling my close friends when I was about 18

that I always wanted sing in a small jazz joint. Roughly 20 years later, I participated in a self-actualisation course and expressed that same wish to the other participants, who then held me to it. In three months, I had to make that wish a reality, and that was how my first singing gig started; in a small café called Gone Fishing.

4. The first time I sang for an audience... was at my Primary 4 class *Talentine*. I got a consolation prize.
5. I titled by album *You Live Once*... originally I was going to title the album *Off the Back Burner*, because this project had been sitting on my back burner for the longest time. Then I changed the title to *If You Only Knew*, because so much happened behind the scenes in the process of putting the album together. However, as the costs of recording and producing started mounting, I just said, "Heck, you live once", and that's how it came to be.
6. Doctoring and singing... are part of my life, and I enjoy them a lot. Both are about interacting with human beings, but doctoring keeps me grounded as well as brings home the bacon. I'd starve if I sang for a living.
7. I wanted to be a doctor because... I didn't actually know what I wanted to do with my life after I finished junior college, but my dad, who is also a doctor, encouraged me to choose medicine with the promise that I would find a niche where I would fit in. He told me that after graduation, if I found that I was an academic, I could return to the university to do research or to teach. If I found that I had good hands, I could do surgery, and so on. Luckily for me, he was right – I do like being a doctor very much.
8. My best medical school memory is... the final year of medical school and staying at the then-KEVII hostel at Sepoy Lines. The camaraderie made preparing for and taking the final year exam a happy experience.
9. The most memorable, touching or amusing thing I can remember as a practising doctor is... an 80-year-old lady I saw as a housecall, who loved to cook but was bed-bound. When she became well enough to cook for the first time in a long while, she asked her family to send me a bowl of food she made.
10. The best/worst thing a patient ever said to me... The best thing a patient has said to me was "God bless you good doctor". The worst thing a patient has said to me was "F\_\_\_ off!" He was a drug addict who wouldn't take no for an answer and I told him off rudely without giving him any face, in front of a waiting room full of other patients. I tried to contact him later that day, to apologise for being rude but he had left us



some phony number. I learnt six months later that the police found him dead in some back alley in Geylang.

11. I spend my Sunday mornings... either at breakfast, at Borders with my husband and kid, or at Sungei Buloh birdwatching.
12. A bad habit I would like to kick is... none bad enough to want to kick ☺
13. My greatest extravagance is... none really, it's all relative right?
14. The music playing in my car stereo is... a mixed bag. I'm researching new material for my next gig. Otherwise, I listen to the BBC.
15. My favourite song/singer is... Too many wonderful people and too many wonderful songs to have favorites. I'd love to sing *Here's To Life one day*, when I've earned my stripes.
16. The last movie I watched was... *Gran Torino*, a Clint Eastwood movie. Simple story, well told, and well acted with a surprising ending; I cried.
17. I think everyone should watch... *The Shawshank Redemption*. It's a prison movie about hardship, friendship, dreams and how "Fear can hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free."
18. My biggest food weaknesses are... I love my carbs, and I do like my food salty!
19. I would like to be remembered as... someone who was kind and loved, and who will be missed when I am gone. **SMA**